

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2002B040A	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US 03/09591	International filing date (day/month/year) 28.03.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.03.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC C07C2/12		
Applicant EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL PATENTS INC. et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  09.09.2003	Date of completion of this report  17.09.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer  O'Sullivan, P  Telephone No. +31 70 340-4511  

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/US 03/09591**

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-21 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-38 as originally filed

**Drawings, Figures**

1-5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-38
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-38
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-38
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/US 03/09591

**Re: Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-5 026 933

D2: US-A-5 284 989

D3: EP-A-402 051

**Novelty (Art 33(2) PCT)**

D1 (see column 2, line 67 - column 3, line 47; column 4, line 25-34; column 5, lines 18-61) discloses a process for the oligomerization of C-3 or C-4 (see example XIV) olefins under oligomerisation conditions with a HZSM-23 extrudate which has been selectivated with 2,4,6-collidine. The degree of branching from C-8 to C-16 runs from 0.96 to 1.34 (table 13).

Since the catalyst and conditions of D1 appear to be identical to that of the current application, it is implicit that the subject-matter of current claims 2-21 are included in the scope of D1. Other experimental details such as WHSV and pressure are considered available to the man skilled in the art and therefore not new.

Claims 1-21 are therefore not considered novel.

D1 (example XVII) discloses the alkylation of an olefin produced by the process of the invention and the recovery of dodecylbenzenes. Claims 37-38 are therefore not new.

D2 discloses subject-matter almost identical to D1 and is therefore considered novelty destroying for claims 1-21 for the same reasons.

D3 (page 2) discloses the use of selectivated ZSM-23 for the oligomerisation of propylene and/or butylene, followed by hydroformylation (oxonation) of the oligomer and esterification of the saturated alcohol. The products are used in detergents, plasticisers and lubricants (D3, page 3, lines 9-14). The resultant alcohols can be esterified or etherified. Claims 1-36 are therefore not novel.